



Public Information Open House **55th Street NW/ West Circle Drive Area** **Transportation Improvements**

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 55th Street NW, Rochester, Minnesota 55904

December 7, 2006 | 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

The City of Rochester Public Works Department is holding this open house to provide and gather information, and to receive comments regarding the proposed area transportation improvements. A 2002 Olmsted County transportation study identified the need for the proposed improvements, including traffic signal relocation from West Circle Drive (CSAH 22) and 55th Street NW to West Circle Drive and Members Parkway to provide better signal spacing, safety and mobility on West Circle Drive. The City would also like to address the morning and evening rush-hour traffic congestion and access problems on 55th Street NW, particularly in the vicinity of the Fairway Drive intersection..

Representatives from City of Rochester and SEH (consultant) are available to listen and respond to your questions. You may submit formal comments by filling out a comment card and either dropping it in the comment box or, if you would like more time, you can mail them to us.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The City of Rochester, in cooperation with Olmsted County, is proposing to improve the transportation safety and operations in and around the 55th Street NW and 41st Avenue NW neighborhood. Proposed changes include:

- Moving the signal from 55th Street NW and West Circle Drive, west to Members Parkway
- Connecting Members Parkway to the Northwest Plaza Frontage Road
- Reconstructing the “old” intersection at West Circle Drive and 55th Street NW, closing access the existing north leg of the intersection and allowing only left in and right in and right out access to the retail area on the south leg of the existing intersection.

Moving the signal to the new location requires a new road connection between Members Parkway and 55th Street NW. This proposed road is along the former 41st Avenue NW corridor. The City and its consultant, Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®), are studying how best to improve area transportation by evaluating the existing condition as well as variety of intersection types that are shown on the open house exhibits. The options include:

- A. Creating a through-street connection from 55th Street NW to West Circle Drive along the 41st Avenue NW corridor,
- B. Creating a “T” intersection at 55th Street and a new 41st Avenue NW
- C. Constructing a roundabout at the intersection of 55th Street and a new 41st Avenue NW

Please feel free to ask questions of the available staff. We are interested in understanding your perspective on these important transportation issues.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the project schedule?

The goal is to finish the Analysis of Alternatives in early 2007 and prepare construction plans for either the summer of 2007 or, because of other area construction, early in 2008. This will be better defined by the next open house.

What is the proposed cost of the project?

Once the preferred intersection(s) are identified, a preliminary cost estimate will be made and available by the second open house.

How will the project be funded?

The project will be funded with County and Municipal State Aid funds, private funds and tax levy. Special Assessments may be levied against property abutting the project that benefits from the project.

How will pedestrian and bike traffic change?

A sidewalk/trail is proposed to extend from 55th Street NW to the traffic signal at Château Road NW. Another sidewalk/trail is proposed for each side of the new 41st Avenue connection to the proposed new signal at the Members Parkway / West Circle Drive intersection.

Is this a done deal?

There is an existing traffic congestion and traffic safety problem on 55th Street that needs to be addressed. There is also an increasing level of congestion and delay on West Circle Drive. The City Council and County Board will need to decide how to best address these problems and what Alternative(s) best corrects the problems. The City Council and County Board will rely on City and County Engineer's recommendations and the input we receive from the neighborhood. Recommendations are expected to be presented to the Council and County Board in early spring 2007.

NEXT STEPS

Once the City completes its Analysis of Alternatives and prepares a layout of the preferred alternate, the second open house will introduce the preliminary layout and design of the preferred alternative.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact one of the following individuals:

City of Rochester Public Works

Russ Kelm

Project Manager

210 4th Street SE, Room 108

Rochester, MN 55904

507-281-6193

SEH

Sue Mason

Project Manager

3240 East River Road NE, Suite 102

Rochester, MN 55906-3422

800-325-2055

City web site: www.rochester.mn.gov/departments/publicworks/hottopics

COMMENTS?

Please fill out the comment card and drop it in the COMMENTS box provided tonight. Or fax (507-281-6216) or mail it in. When folded, the address appears on the back.

Please return these by December 15, 2006.

Thanks for coming!